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(54) Abstract Title
Paint roller tray and stand

(57) A paint roller tray and stand comprises a tray or container 2 for containing viscous substances 6, such as wallpaper pastes/adhesives or paint, and a stand 3a which supports the tray 2. The roller tray 2 has a well 5 for containing the paint or paste and a ramp portion 4b for loading the brush or roller evenly. The tray 2 may be provided with a lid (14, fig 4) and a carrying handle (12, fig 4). A notch (9, fig 2) in the rim of the tray and attachment means (11 and 16, fig 4) may also be provided for holding the roller, brushes and decorating accessories when they are not in use. The stand 3a is formed from one or more stackable, hollow shell elements (3b, fig 3) to a height which reduces the amount of bending required by the decorator. At least the base module (3b(i), fig 3) of the stand may be part-filled with sand or water to increase the stability. The tray 2 and the stand 3a may be formed from plastic materials or aluminium.

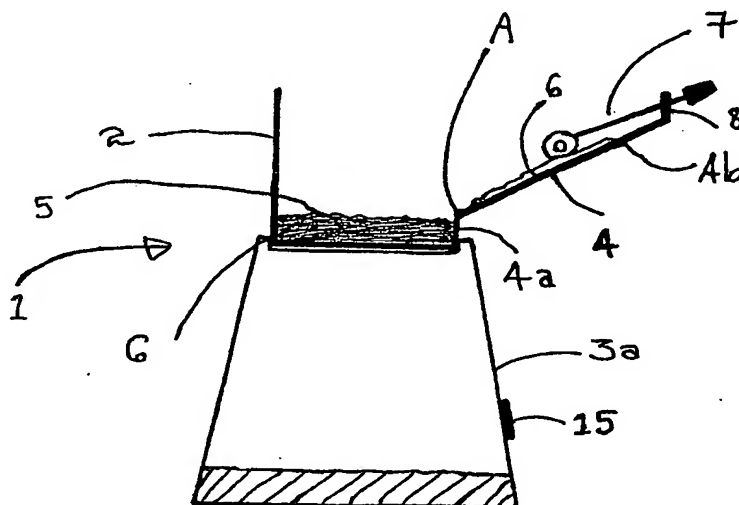


FIGURE 1

GB 2 379 649 A

The claims were filed later than the filing date but within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995.

At least one of these pages has been prepared from an original which was unsuitable for direct photoreproduction.

Title: Storage of Viscous Substances

DESCRIPTION

This invention concerns a storage device for viscous substances, in particular wallpaper paste, paint or the like.

In the decorating trade, it is known to use a bucket or the like for the storage of wallpaper paste, whereby a brush, roller or the like is coated with paste, which is then applied to the surface as required. However, a disadvantage of this form of storage and dispensation is that, when the brush or roller is dipped directly into the bucket of paste, it can become overfull, resulting in the user having to scrape the excess paste off. This may make an unnecessary mess, and also may result in unsatisfactory coverage of the brush or roller with paste. Furthermore, the paste may clog the brush or roller, resulting in an uneven application of paste to the surface.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved device for the storage of viscous substances, in particular wallpaper paste and paint.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a device for the storage of viscous substances, comprising a container having a base and side walls extending upwardly therefrom, whereby at least one side wall thereof has at least one reduction in gradient.

In this way, the container of the device may be filled with wallpaper paste or the like, up to the level where the first reduction in gradient occurs. In this way, the wallpaper paste or the like is held within a reservoir formed by the side having the change in gradient, and when a user wishes to load a

brush or roller with wallpaper paste, he coats the side having the reduction in gradient with the paste from the reservoir, and any excess drains back into the reservoir. Accordingly, the side having the change in gradient is coated with enough paste for the user to load his brush or roller several times without having to dip the brush or roller directly into the reservoir, which could overload the brush and thereby cause clogging.

It is preferred that the device further comprises a stand, whereby the container of the device rests on the stand, which elevates the container to the required height above the ground, to provide easier access to the container and hence the wallpaper paste or the like, by the user. Preferably, the top of the stand has upturned edges to retain the container of the device in a substantially stable position. More preferably still, the stand is hollow, having an inlet to facilitate the addition of sand, water, or any other suitable material, into the stand. This acts as a steadying means to prevent unwanted movement of the stand, and hence the container.

More preferably still, the height of the stand is adjustable, whereby a user can adjust the height above ground of the container by adjusting the height of the stand to suit themselves, for example, by elevating the container to waist height. In this way, the container does not have to be stored on a paste table or the like, which would waste valuable space, and nor does it have to be stored on the ground, which would result in the user having to continually bend down to load his or her brush, roller or the like.

It is preferable that the stand comprises a number of interconnecting stackable parts, whereby the user can add or remove the stackable parts as required, to suit their height. More preferably still, the stackable parts have

teeth around the top and bottom edges thereof, whereby the teeth on one stackable parts fit in between the teeth on the stackable part above or below it, thereby resulting in a stand, which is both steady and adjustable in height. It is preferred that the top stackable part has upturned edges to releasably hold the container in a steady position. Preferably, at least the bottom stackable part is hollow, having an inlet to facilitate the addition of sand, water, or any suitable material into the bottom stackable part, in order to act as a steadying means.

Preferably, the container of the device has a notch or the like in a top edge thereof, more preferably still the top edge of the side having the reduction in gradient, whereby a brush, roller or the like may be releasably held within the notch when not being used. Alternatively or in addition, the device, more preferably still the container, may have at least one, but preferably a plurality of attachment means thereon, whereby a brush, roller or the like, and other decorating implements such as a mixing tool may be releasably attached to the device when not in use, and removed when necessary.

It is preferred that the device of the invention further comprises an airtight lid, which may be placed over the opening in the container, when the device is not being used. In using the airtight lid, the paste, paint or the like stored therein is less likely to, in the case of paste, turn into an unusable watery consistency, or in the case of paint, harden, due to exposure to air. Preferably, the container further comprises a handle, to provide an easy means of moving the container around, when this is required.

It is preferable that the device is made from a substantially resilient material such as plastics, but any other suitable material, such as aluminium may also be used.

The invention will now be further described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 shows a sectional side view of a first embodiment of a storage device in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 shows an end on view of a first embodiment of a storage device in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 3 shows a sectional side view of a second embodiment of a storage device in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 4 shows a side view of a first embodiment of a storage device in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 5 shows a sectional side view of a third embodiment of a storage device in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 6 shows a side view of a fourth embodiment of a storage device in accordance with the present invention.

With reference to the accompanying drawings, a storage device is represented in general by reference numeral 1.

With reference to Figures 1 to 4 in particular, the storage device 1 comprises a container 2 and a stand 3. The container 2 of the storage device 1 has a side wall 4, which has a change in gradient at point A, resulting in a first side wall part 4a and a second side wall part 4b, the part 4b having a lower gradient than the part 4a. As a result, a reservoir 5, below point A, is formed, which can contain, in use, the wallpaper paste 6 or the like. In this

way, a user can load the side 4b with wallpaper paste from the reservoir 5, and then when it is desired to coat a roller 7 with paste 6, they can simply load the roller 7 from the side 4b, without having to load the roller 7 directly from the reservoir. This results in less clogging and overloading of the roller, which could produce undesirable results.

The side wall 4 of the container has an upturned edge 8, having a notch 9 therein. In use, a roller 7 may be rested in the notch 9, when required.

Referring to figures 1, 2 and 4 in particular, the stand 3a is hollow and non-adjustable, having sand 10 in the bottom thereof, for steadying purposes. Alternatively, water could be used. An inlet 15 facilitates the addition of sand into the stand 3a. Referring to Figure 3 in particular, the stand is adjustable, being made up of three stackable parts 3b(i), 3b(ii), and 3b(iii), which can be added or removed to increase or decrease the height of the stand as required. The bottom stackable part 3b(iii) is hollow, and contains sand for steadying purposes. The stackable parts 3b(i), 3b(ii) and 3b(iii) have teeth 10 around their top and bottom edges, which interlink to keep the stackable parts in a stable position. With reference to Figure 6 in particular, the stand is again adjustable, being made up of two stackable parts 3c(i) and 3c(ii). The stackable parts 3c(i) and 3c(ii) have interconnecting members 16 and 17 thereon, which fit together in use to releasably connect the stackable parts 3c(i) and 3c(ii) together.

The device shown in Figure 4 is similar to that shown in Figures 1 and 2, but for the presence of a hook 11, a handle 12, a lid 14 and an attachment means 16 for a hose 17. The hook 11 may be used for the storage of

decorating implements (not shown), and the handle 1 included for ease of carrying, when required. The lid 14 may be placed on the container 2 when not in use, to prevent the paste from becoming watery.

With reference to Figure 5 in particular, the container 2a and stand 3a are similar to those shown in Figures 1 and 2, but for the side wall 13, which has a number of reductions in gradient, resulting in an arcuate shape.

The device of the invention provides an organised and tidy means of storing wallpaper paste and the like, which efficiently uses the space available. Furthermore, the device of the invention provides for adjustment to suit people of different heights.

FIGURE 4

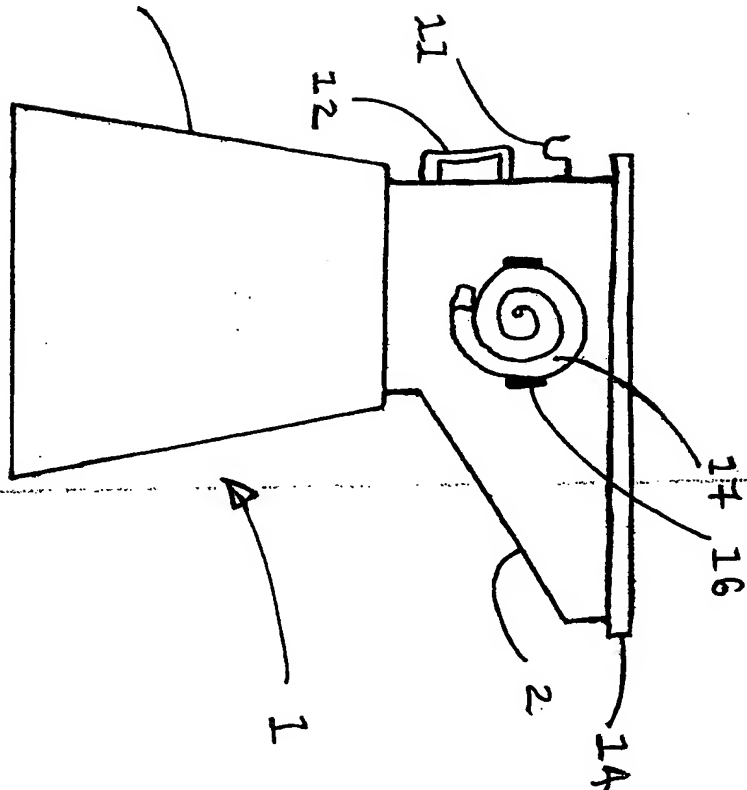
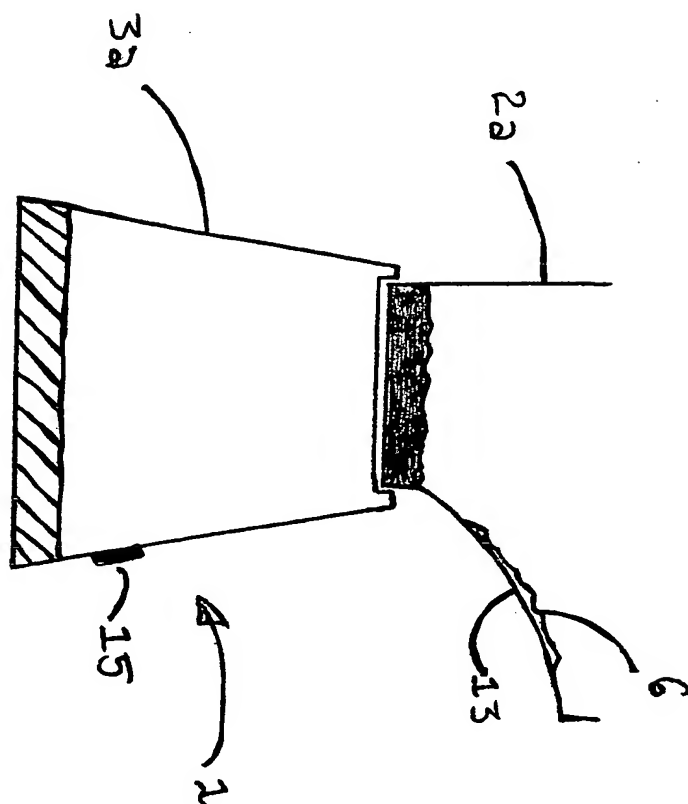


FIGURE 5



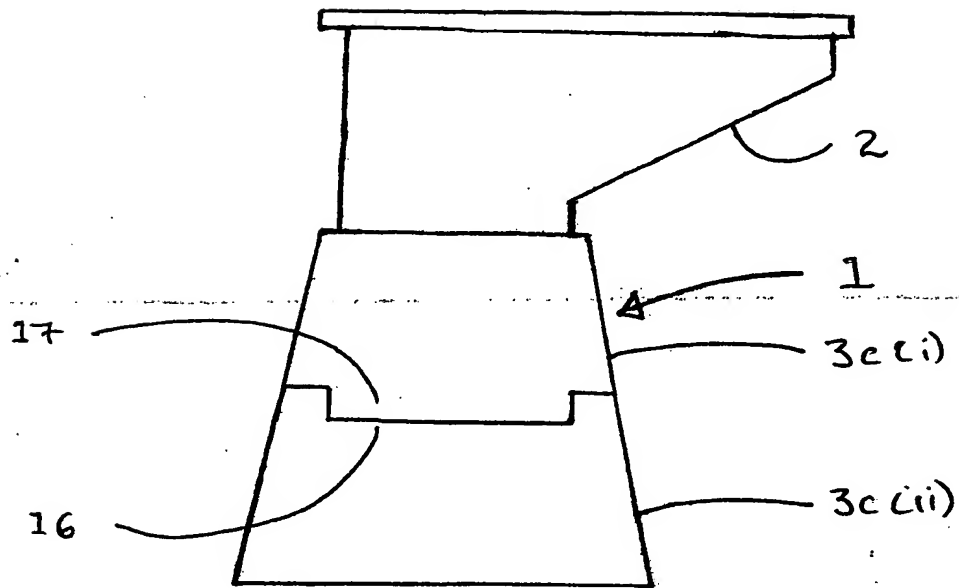


FIGURE 6